IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 11 and 15 and add new claims 17-19 as follows:

11. (Amended) A method of producing said truncated glucanase of claim 1,

A comprising:

- (a) growing in a culture medium a bacterial strain containing a gene encoding for a wild-type 1,3-1,4-β-D-glucanase from *Fibrobacter succinogenes*,
 - (b) centrifuging said culture medium to produce a supernatant,
 - (c) incubating said supernatant to produce said truncated glucanase, and
 - (d) collecting and purifying said truncated glucanase from said

supernatant.

- 15. (Amended) A method of producing said truncated glucanase of claim 1, comprising:
- (a) amplifying a DNA fragment using a PCR method from a DNA template containing a gene encoding for a wild-type glucanase from *Fibrobacter succinogenes*, said DNA fragment substantially corresponding to a portion of said gene,
 - (b) subcloning said amplified DNA fragment in an expression vector,
- (c) transferring said expression vector harbouring said DNA fragment into a host strain,
- (d) growing said host strain in a culture medium for a period of time and inducing expression of said DNA fragment, with or without adding an inducer, to produce a sufficient amount of protein products, and

(e) collecting and purifying protein expression products from said culture

medium.

A3 ADP?

- 7. The method of claim 11, wherein said gene encoding for a wild-type 1,3-1,4-β-D-glucanase is carried in a plasmid.
- 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising, between step(a) and step(b), an additional step of adding to said culture medium an inducer to induce expression of said gene.
 - 19. The method of claim 15, wherein said host strain is a bacterial strain.